The Ypsilanti Fourth of July Parade

11 a.m. Saturday
July 4th
Downtown Ypsilanti

1998 4th of July Parade is 40 percent bigger

With 130 units, the Fourth of July Parade is almost 40 percent bigger than last year.

The effort to rejuvenate the parade was led by former Ypsilanti Township Supervisor Wes Prater, who recruited anyone and everyone willing to work on making the parade bigger and better this year.

Bag pipe bands and clowns, Girl and Boy Scout troops, fire engines, marching bands and even an Army tank - this year the Fourth of July Parade has something for everyone.

A B-25 from Yankee Air Force is scheduled, weather permitting, to do a fly over for the parade.

The Michigan Air National Guard at Selfridge Air Force Base may also do a fly over.

On the ground, the Windsor Police Pipe Band is an old favorite at the Ypsilanti Fourth of July Parade, and in demand at other parades in the country.

Wearing the traditional Red Gordon Tartan, the pipe band brings a unique flavor to the parade.

The band was formed in 1967 and remains an important part of the community in Windsor and Essex County in Candada. Pipe bands representing police services area tradition throughout the world and are quite predominate in the southeastern Ontario region.

The 15- member band performs in parades, competitions and various other functions not limited to the Windsor area, but throughout the United States and Great Britain. It performs in 50-60 engagements in a year.

The band is not solely comprised of Windsor Police officers. In fact, only two of the band members are part of the Windsor Police Service. The rest of the band is comprised of a cross section of the community, including factory workers, federal government employees, sales representatives and students. A number off the band members travel quite a distance to play with the group.

Many members of the Cabar Feidh Pipe Band have been in Ypsilanti before, as the Birmingham Celtic Band, said drummer and Business Manager Ed Fox

The Cabar Feidh formed in 1993, after many people broke away from the Birmingham Celtic Band.

The Cabar Feidh will play in two parades Saturday, first in Plymouth and then in Ypsilanti.

The band will play in Algonac Sunday and June 11 at the Saline Celtic Festival.

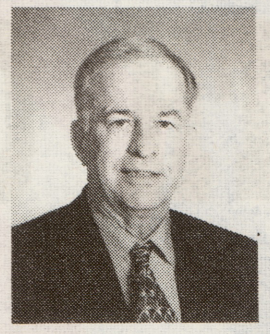
About 12-15 band members should play in the parade, Fox said. Not everyone plays in every engagement, he said.

Cabar Feidh performs traditional Scottish marching tunes, Fox said. Some members have been to Glasgow, Scotland to play competitively.

From Dexter comes Pokadot

(See PARADE, Page 9)

"A Veteran Saluting Veterans"



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This information was printed June 19, 1998 and was accurate as of that date. It is subject to change after that date. To find out what we may have changed, write to us at: Ypsilanti Area Federal Credit Union, 424 S. Mansfield St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197-5165

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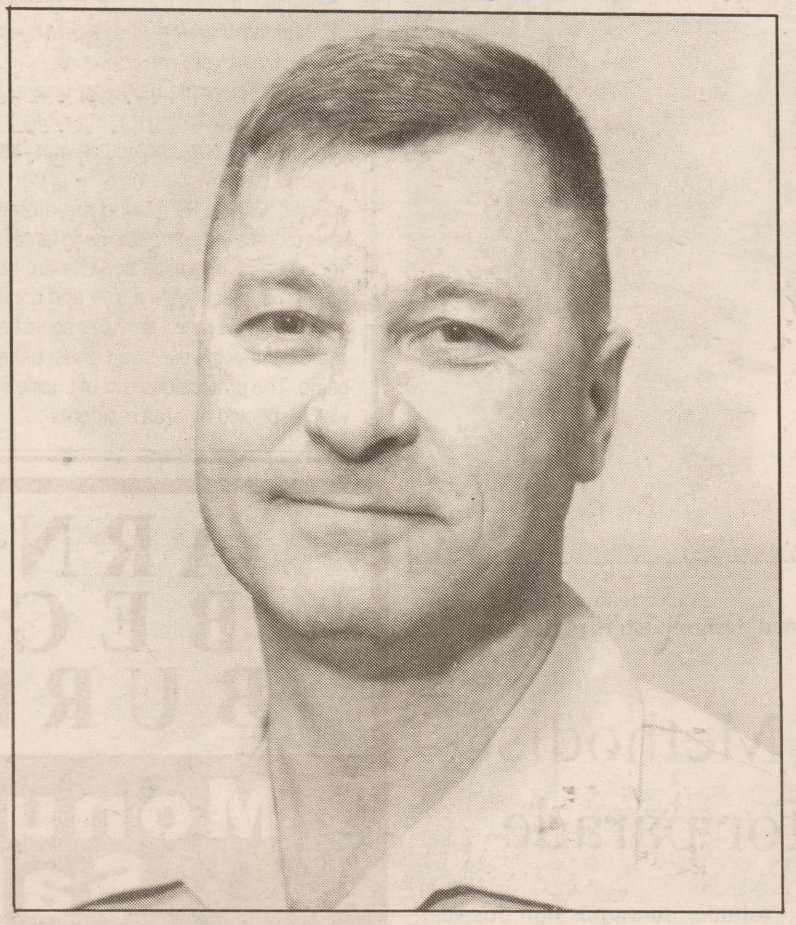
Parade grand marshal is Marine lieutenant colonel

By JIM KISE
Courier Staff



BASS

When you lead the parade they call you the grand marshal.

But John Bass isn't grandiose, despite his rank of lieutenant colonel and responsibilities for training five companies of Marine Reserves in Michigan and Ohio from his base at Brodhead Naval Armory in Detroit.

Nevertheless, Bass will be at the front of the Ypsilanti Fourth of July Parade this year, a rejuvenated effort with more people organizing and recruiting parade participants.

"The way I look at it, it's an honor to follow folks like Joe (Rodriguez, one of the parade organizers and a World War II veteran) who've been there ...," Bass said. "On a day built around folks who served their country ... the idea of patriotism is not alien to us. It may sound corny, but it is certainly close to our hearts. ... I'm just an ordinary Marine walking in the footsteps of all those other Marines."

That attitude is why Rodriguez picked Bass to be the grand marshal.

"He's a guy who worked his way up through the ranks," Rodriguez said. "From sergeant to officer. He treats people underneath him like he knows what it's like (to be an enlisted man).

"He's the kind of officer I'd like to have over me if I was an enlisted man. He represents what the Marine Corps stands for."

Bass, 47, is a Vietnam veteran who was wounded in combat.

A few days after his 19th birthday, he arrived in Vietnam. He was shot about two months later.

"I ducked when I should have dodged," he said.

He was hit in both shoulders, serious enough to require six weeks of hospital care. While he was recovering, he caught malaria, and was sent back to the states.

He was discharged a few months later.

But the wound wasn't enough to keep him away from the Marines. He re-enlisted four years later, after he finished college.

"For me, the Corps drew me back. In my case, it's the combination of being able to lead and see the influence I have on an awful lot of smart young people, and dedicated young people," he said. "It's been a great career. I've certainly lived the life epitomized by the term, 'Tell it to the Marines' because I've certainly been everywhere and done everything. I've spent time in a lot of countries. I've worked with a lot of people, from Bedouins in the Middle East to villagers in Vietnam. It's just been, for me, the kind of life that's kept me in, and kept me leading."

Bass could retire, albeit at a lower salary, but he likes being a Marine too much to retire.

"There's always something new. And, it's a good way to stay out of the office and in the field as often as possible. For most Marines, at least for me, it's a good way to be a participant instead of a spectator in world affairs, having some part in world events."

Bass has marched in parades, with city officials in Massachusetts, but not as the grand marshal.

"When you stop to think about it, the holiday itself, without the parade, it gets lost in the fun and commercialism of having another day off," he said.

"For the military folks in uniform, for those of us who have retired or left the service, it's particularly important ... everything we believe about why we're in uniform is epitomized in that day.

"What better way to celebrate a birthday than to remember what it took to get that birthday. People involved. People coming together in parades is one good way to remind ourselves that it took people coming together to make that birthday possible."

Watching the parade is a way to participate in something bigger than the immediate community; it is a way to participate in the nation's birthday, he said.

"I think parades are the nation's birthday party," he said.

Bass is bringing a color guard and two "hummers," gun vehicles with machine guns mounted on them.

There will be Marines in parades all across Michigan that weekend, he said.

"For us, our Fourth of July weekend is getting out among the people of the towns and cities, and being part of it," he said. "I think one of the things we think about an awful lot these days is we want to be out among the people because it's a reminder that all the people in the service are the sons and daughters, husbands and wives of the citizens of every state, every village out there."

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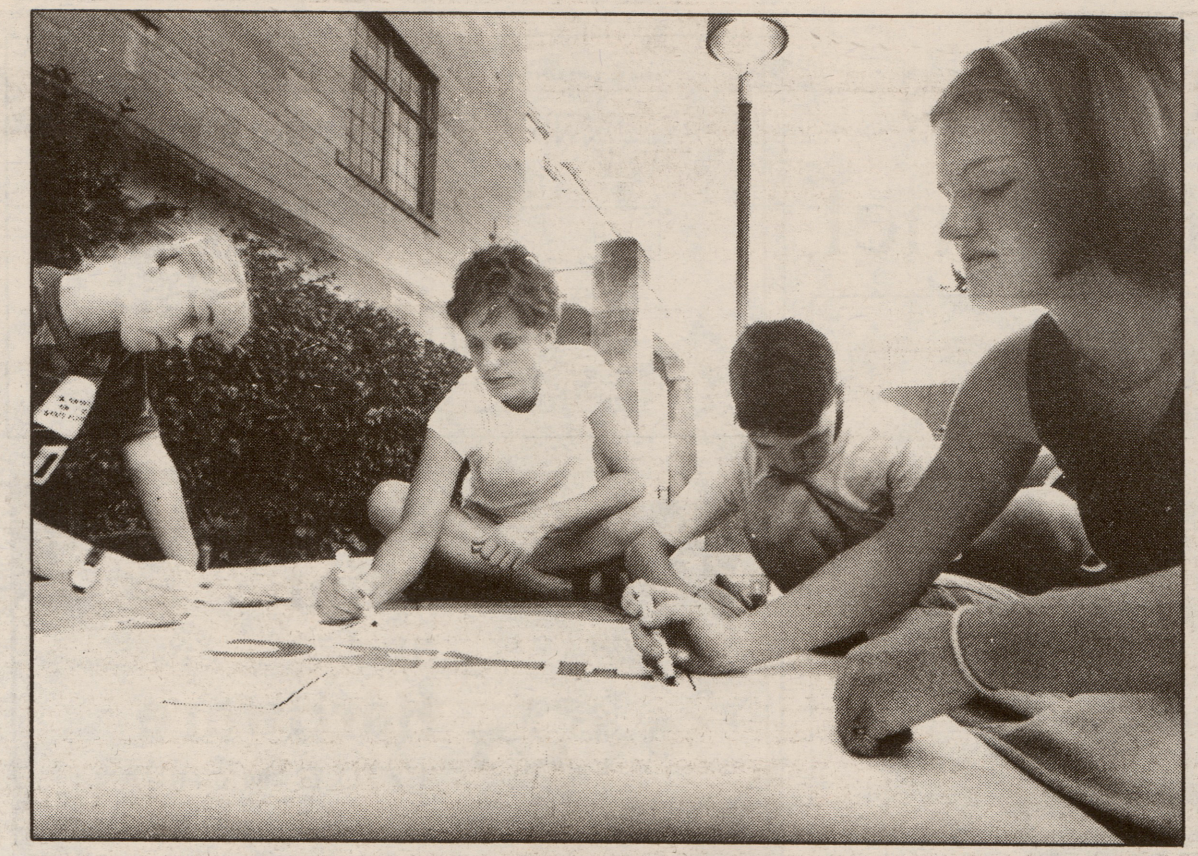

COURIER PHOTOS / MARK MUELLER

Liesl Hansen, left, Kristen McMurphy, Austin Gee and Alexis Brannen design posters to decorate the float for First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor.

Youths from First United Methodist in Ann Arbor build float for parade

Youths from an Ann Arbor, church are coming to Ypsilanti to be in the Fourth of July Parade.

Kristen McMurphy, a member of First United Methodist of Ann Arbor, and the summer youth program intern, said a news article about the parade looking for entrants was put in her mailbox at the church.

It was the last day to register to be in the parade when she got the clip.

But, "I knew the group," she said. "I knew if they knew they could be in a parade and ham it up in front of a bunch of people, they would be interested."

She had kids calling kids, to get people involved in building a float.

She said she never saw any information about the Ann Arbor parade.

"I knew this one wanted people. It just looked like a welcoming place," she said.

There will be about 10-15 teens with the First United Methodist entry, ranging in age from 12 to 17.

The church has someone in charge of its youth ministries program, and that person is busy setting up vacation Bible school trips, one in northern Michigan, to two Indian reservations during the summer.

So, McMurphy, a member of First United, applied for the summer intern position this year, and sets up all the local programs.

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Highland Cemetery is final resting place for many vets

By A.P MARSHALL
Courier Special Writer

"Patriotism must be taught to our children so that they will be ready to defend our country if it is attacked." Those are words from World War II veteran Montrose Brock Sr., a barber.

"Veterans of all wars should be honored, and our children should know why," said another prominent Ypsilantian who begged anonymity.

"Independence Day is a time when we celebrate our freedom and honor those who made it possible," said City Historian Doris Milliman.

Independence Day was established by Congress on July 2, 1776, but over the years the public has chosen to celebrate July 4.

Observances really became more earnest at the end of the Civil War in 1865, when patriotism was at an all-time high.

Since that time, Americans have shown an increasing concern for those who fought their wars. Benjamin Woodruff, one of the founders of Ypsilanti was disappointed when he was a few days late returning for the celebration July 4.

A great feast was held each year on Independence Day by the early settlers.

Parades are held at every opportunity, and crowds gather in churches or other public places all across the country.

Speeches praise those who offered their lives for their country, whatever the war.

Near Lots 30 and 31 in Highland Cemetery on North River Street stands an imposing granite monument on which is engraved the following:

ERECTED BY THE WOMAN'S
RELIEF CORPS OF YPSILANTI IN MEMORY OF THE MEN WHO IN THE WAR OF THE GREAT REBELLION FOUGHT TO UPHOLD THEIR COUNTRY'S FLAG. MEMORIAL DAY 1895.

The names of the major officers of the organization are engraved on both the front and back of the monument:

FLORENCE S. BABBITT, PRES., ARDELLA G. SNIDECOR, SEC., CORNELIA B. SEVEY, TREAS.

Highland Cemetery was suggested as a community burial ground as early as 1858 by Mayor Chauncey Joslin, but it was not opened for use until 1864. Among the first mass

(See VETERANS, Page 9)

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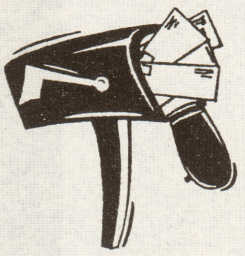
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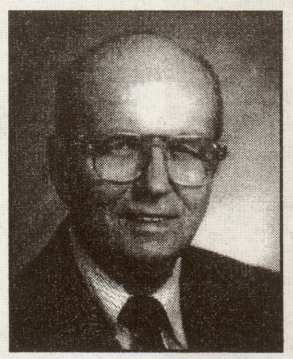
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3. Small Business Seminars at Reduced Cost - Offered through Washtenaw Community College, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor and the Chamber Staff and held at the Chamber offices.
4. The Open Door Employee Assistance Program & Drugs Don't Work - These innovative programs allow Chamber members to provide confidential outside assistance for troubled employees for as little as $2 to $3 per employee per month.
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July 4 has always had special meaning for 'Doc' Edmunds

By JOHN BARR Jr.
Courier Special Writer

Dr. "Doc" William Edmunds may be retired, but that doesn't mean he's stopped working. Edmunds, who was a family physician for 40 years, now volunteers his time at Hope Clinic on Huron Street.

Edmunds attended the University of Michigan for one semester in 1942 before serving in Army Air Force for 23 months during World War II.

On returning, he finished his undergraduate degree, then also earned a medical degree at U-M's medical school on the GI Bill. He retired two years ago and donates his services to Hope Clinic. "Right now, they're fairly well staffed, but they've kind of got my name on the list when they need me. Medicine has been one of the great joys of my life. I've enjoyed it enough to do it for free."

As a doctor, he believes he inspired young patients who also went into medicine, he said.

"I've always had the theory that people who were exposed to medicine or in doctor's family really knew whether they wanted to go into medicine."

However, none of Edmunds four children did, and only one lives in Ypsilanti, daughter Kathy Edmunds Gliha.

Born in Cleveland, Edmunds went to UM and became a doctor. He had wanted to be a doctor since he was five.

Edmunds' father had attended UM and played football with Coach Fielding Yost.

"As far as our family was concerned, there was only one university. Growing up in Cleveland, when Michigan lost to Ohio State, I didn't want to go to school Monday morning."

Edmunds was also in a fraternity, the Galen Honorary Medical Society, and gifted in writing. In 1949 he won the Stephen Vincent Benet award from Stanford University for a radio verse play he created.

Edmunds is participating in the July Fourth Parade as part of the contingent from the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

But such events have a special meaning for him because of his service during World War II.

He had 35 bombing missions over Japan and 32 combat missions as a radar operator and a medic before being discharged as a staff sergeant, which wasn't significant, but at least it was "a raise in pay" in contrast from the beginning, he said.

He won six air medals and two distinguished flying crosses for overseas service.

He never cared about being famous.

"I was just as happy being ignored," he laughed.

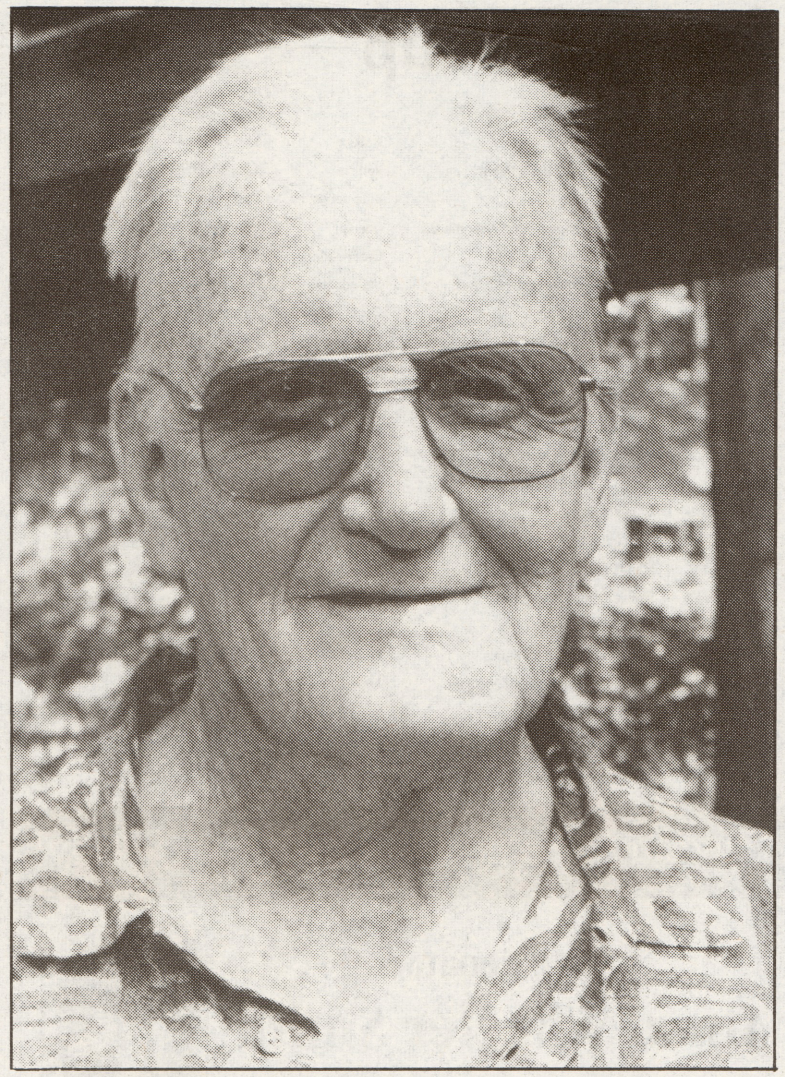
The army was still exciting, "more than I'd like," Edmunds laughed. He said he was never treated as toughly as the service was portrayed in movies.

And because he was "too close to the war" he was never able to enjoy those movies, he said. "I went through basic training as an aviation cadet, and it was fairly easy. I ended up going to gunnery school. No, I had no tough drill sergeants ... or punishment details ... but I did have a physical fitness instructor who was a hot dog and made us run through wet sand. Hell, they had a war to fight."

The hardest part for him was living with 21 men in a Quonset hut. On Easter Sunday night April 1, 1945, 14 went out and didn't come back alive from the island of Saipan in the Pacific Ocean. One plane exploded on takeoff. The other was lost over the target and never returned.

"We'd lived together for a year and four months, and I knew every one of them very well. We were very, very fortunate. At one point we had a hole blown in our wing and an explosive 20mm that took out the supplier for the flap behind number two engine. If it had been six inches further ahead, it would have been into a gasoline tank. If you come through unscathed there are a few things you remember," such as running out of fuel just as the plane was coming in to land after sweating through a thousand miles over water with low fuel.

(See 'DOC, Page 9)



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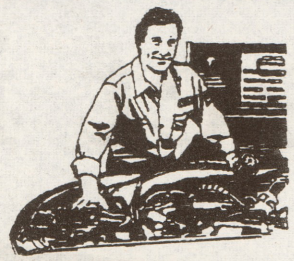

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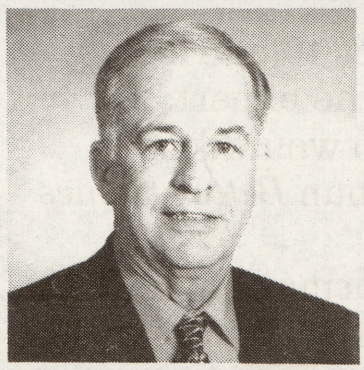

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Parade lineup

TYPE OF UNIT	NAME OF UNIT
Police Car	Ypsilanti Police Department
Patrol Car	Michigan State Police
Marching	Wolverine Chapter 82nd Airborne Div.
Float	American Legion Post 282
Walking Group	American Legion Post 282, Aux.
Antique Vehicle	V.F.W. Post 2408
Antique Vehicle	Antique Auto-41 Buick
Non-Musical	VFW 2408 Ladies Auxiliary
Float	Friend of the VFW
Marching	Veterans Color Guard
Marching	Vietnam Vets of America Chap. 310
Color Guard	1st Batt. 24th Marines
Grand Marshall	Grand Marshall
Vehicle - 2	1st Batt. 24th Marines
Color Guard	Marine Corps Honor Guard
Marching	Marine Corps Honor Guard
Vehicle - 3	Marine Corps Honor Guard
Marching Musical	Ypsilanti High School Band
Color Guard	NROTC Unit University of Michigan
Walking Group	Ypsilanti City
Float	Ypsilanti Historical Society-Museum
Float/Walking	Ypsilanti Township
Walking	Ypsi PD GREAT
Vehicle	Ypsi PD GREAT
Automobile	Ypsi Chapter D.A.R.
One Car	VFW #4076 & Persian Gulf Command
Cheerleaders	Huron Valley Golden Eagles
Individual	Rep. Kirk A. Profit
Float	Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce
Marching	Ann Arbor Dukes Drill Team
Ant.Veh/Army	Military Vehicle
Vehicle	Washtenaw County Am. Red Cross
Vehicle	Washtenaw County Am. Red Cross
Float	Ypsilanti Area Jaycees
Dance	Ypsilanti Township Dance Group
Float	Friends of YPD (Ducky Race
Motorcycles	Washtenaw Co. Sheriff Dept.
Musical	Scare Crow for the Oz
Marching Musical	Willow Run High School Band
Marching	Willow Run School Board
Float	West Willow Neighborhood Watch...
Antique Vehicle	1951 Ford
Individual	Statue of Liberty
Marching	A.L. Ashraf Temple #167
Individual	Huron Valley A.B.S.C.
Antique Vehicle	Vehicle
Marching Musical	Frontier Rollers Marching Unit...
Antique Vehicle	1929 International Truck
Float	Parents Together
Walking Group	Huron Braves Junior Football League
Antique Vehicle	1951 Chevrolet
Walking/Bicycles	City of Ypsi. Parks and Recreation
Calliope	Flint's Music Maker's

(See LINEUP, Page 11)

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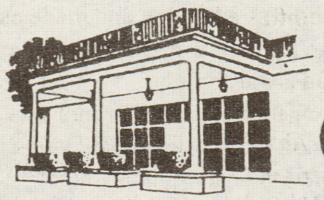

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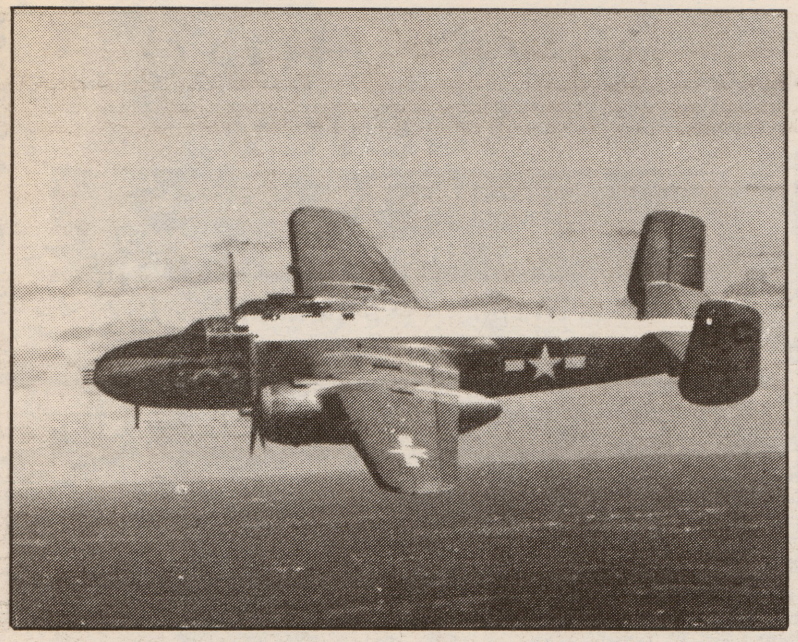

Photo: Special to the Courier

Yankee Air Force will do a fly over with a World War II era, B-25 Bomber for the Fourth of July Parade.

Parade

(Continued from Page 2)

the Clown. She brings her husband in a multi-colored beanie with a whirlygig on top in their Royal Clownmobile.

The Clownmobile blows bubbles and plays circus music.

Pokadot, who said she signs her checks 'Pokadot,' has been in the Fourth of July and Heritage Festival parades.

"I was born a clown," she said. "Coming down the birth canal I bumped my nose and the doctor told my mom, 'you've got a real clown here.' I've been clowning ever since."

'Doc'

(Continued from Page 7)

Edmunds still keeps in touch with members of his unit, although they had not been together for 50 years until 1995, he said.

Six of the 11 members of Edmunds' 11-man crew are still alive, he said. They participate in the 73rd Bomber Wing of the 20th Air Force

Other veterans activities include attending and marching in Fourth of July parades, both in uniform and as a clown. Although Edmunds has no plans to march this year as a veteran "as my uniform doesn't fit anymore," he said, but still plans to be in the parade with the Ypsilanti Historical Society, which will have a float.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War, the float will be titled "Remember The Maine," after the battle cry to avenge the battleship that was scuttled in Havana, Cuba, touching off the two-month war.

Edmunds believes the Maine was neither torpedoed by the Spanish or Americans, but exploded by accident.

"It's (the float) not going to be humongous, but it will be somewhat of a replica," he said. "I think it will get people's attention if they put my slogan on it, 'Titanic, Hell! Remember the Maine!' I think it would be a grabber, but I think group wisdom will prevail against it."

Veterans

(Continued from Page 5)

burials were bodies of local casualties of the Civil War, or War of the Rebellion, as it was then known.

Stone markers for each person buried there even now help to identify most of them, though the elements have rendered a few of the old markers unreadable. The markers are all similar, with a few having more information than others. "James Spawn, Co. G, 4 U. S. Cav.;" "Willis Owen, 27th Mich. Inf.;" and "Cornelius Kane, 27th Mich. Inf." are examples.

A few merely state "U. S. Soldier, 27th Mich. Inf." with several carrying the simple designation "U. S. Soldier," possibly meaning "identification unknown."

On a few, the engraving has been almost totally obliterated by the elements.

Men from the Ypsilanti area volunteered at the first call to arms in 1861, including a contingent from Michigan State Normal (now Eastern Michigan University), and the populace gave them a hearty send off.

Several hundred more answered the call of duty as the war dragged on, including a contingent of over 50 African-Americans.

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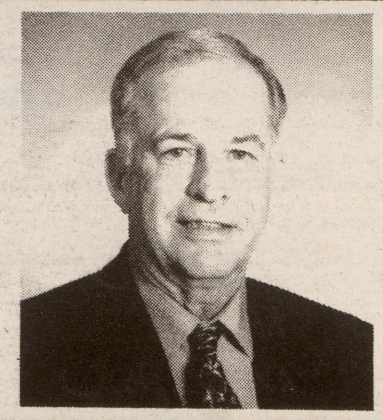

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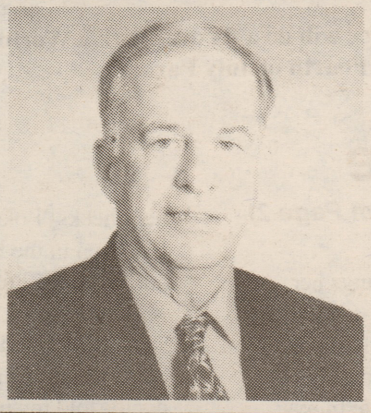

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Lineup

(Continued from Page 8)

Van	Professional Window Tinting
Van	Fairfax Manor
Antique Vehicle	Strategic Solutions Group Inc.
Musical Skaters	Xanadu Roller Skating Center
Walking	Walmart
Car	Walmart
Float	Walmart
Marching	NAACP Ypsilanti and Willow Run
Marching	ACT-SO Ypsilanti and Willow Run
Walking Group	The Williams Family
Walkers	Ypsilanti Area Federal Credit Union
Pickup	Ypsilanti Area Federal Credit Union
Bicycles	Bicycles
Bicycles	Citizen's Bank
Walking Group	Washtenaw Community College Trustee
Walking/Auto	Washtenaw Community College
Antique Vehicle	Washtenaw Trades Council
Walking Group	AFSCNE #1583
Ant. Veh/Walking	U of M Skilled Trades
Marching Musical	Lincoln Railsplitter Marching Bands
Float	Milan V.F.W.
Truck/Walking	Ypsilanti press Ed. of Ann Arb. News
Antique Vehicle	31 Ford
Antique Vehicle	28 Ford
Fire Truck	Wash.Co. Circuit Judge Don Shelton
Marching	West Middle School Honor Society
Bookmobile	YDL Bookmobile
Walking Group	Boy Scout Troop 240
Walking Group	Cub Scout Pack 284
Marching/Walking	Cub Scouts Pack 295
Musical/Float	Ypsilanti Township Music Makers
Walking	Girl Scouts Troop 779
Walking Group	H.V. Girl Scout Junior Troop 656
Walking Group	Huron Valley Girl Scouts
Marching Musical	Windsor Police Pipe Band
Float	The Optimist Club of Ypsilanti
Ambulance	Huron Valley Ambulance
Trucks	Discount Towing
Musical/Truck	Jazzercise
Float	First United Methodist Church Youth
Musical/Walking	Pokadot the Clown
Antique Vehicle	Antique Auto- Hudson
Walking Group	Ypsilanti Players
Float	Ehman & Greenstreet
Marching Musical	Cabar Feidh Pipe Band
Antique Vehicle	Rolling Relics
Horse Unit	The Black Western Historical Soc...
Antique Vehicle	Coming and Going Model A
Antique Vehicle	1912 Reliable Truck 1/2 Scale
Float	Ypsi. Bus. & Professional Women
Horse Unit	Washtenaw Co. Buffalo Soldiers
Clean Up Crew	
Tank	M-1 Tank
Veterans	Washtenaw Voiture #957
Walk	Transport Workers Union
Bus	Transport Workers Union
Veh/Cannon Ball	Wiard's Orchards - 2 units
Walking Group	Hon. Kirk Tabbey
Walking Group	Washtenaw Co. Clerk
	Washtenaw Co. Republican Party
Ant. Veh/Walking	Washtenaw County Commisioner
Walking Group	Wash. Co. Democrat Party
Walking Group	Dillard Roy Craiger
Walking Group	Washtenaw Co. Commisioner
Individual	Washtenaw Co. Comm. S. Shaw
Automobile	Senator Alma Wheeler Smith
Walking Group	Congresswomen Lynn Rivers
Float	Superior Township Treasurer
Walking Group	Washtenaw Co. Treasurer
Individual	Washtenaw County Drain Comm.
Individual	Washtenaw County Prosecuting Att.
Float	Once Upon a Child
Truck	Washtenaw Co. Road Commission
Antique Vehicle	Washtenaw Nauties
Antique Vehicle	Antique Fire Truck
Fire Vehicle	Fire Vehicle
Fire Department	Superior Township Fire Department
Fire Trucks	Ypsilanti Township Fire Department
Fire Trucks	Ypsilanti Township Fire Department
Fly Over	B-25 Yankee Air Force
Fly Over	Mich National Guard

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Happy 4th of July

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MAY - YPSI AREA STREET ROD CAR SHOW IN RIVERSIDE PARK
MAY - YPSILANTI PRIDE...CLEAN UP AROUND THE CITY
MAY - MOMMY/SON DANCE AT THE FARMER'S MARKET FREIGHTHOUSE
JUNE - ORPHAN CAR SHOW IN RIVERSIDE PARK
JUNE - SEPT. - THURSDAY NIGHT CAR SHOW IN DEPOT TOWN
JUNE - FROG ISLAND FESTIVAL IN FROG ISLAND PARK
JULY - 4TH OF JULY PARADE IN DOWNTOWN
AUGUST - HERITAGE FESTIVAL AND PARADE IN RIVERSIDE PARK

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